

Use of Indigenous Iron and Steel Products

479. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce "Buy Indian Ad" wherein usage of only indigenous iron and steel products will be allowed for domestic projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any other countries have enacted such legislation to protect domestic industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether enactment of such legislation is allowed under the WTO Agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI B RAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) The domestic steel industry has been representing to the Government for introduction of "Buy Indian Act", on the lines of the "Buy American Act". The objective of this Act is to encourage the growth and development of indigenous industry by giving constructive preference in Government procurement.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. To encourage the purchase of domestically manufactured products by the Federal Government, the USA have the "Buy American Ad". It is our understanding that the US policy on procurement of goods by Government is based on the Buy American Act of 1933 and the plurilateral Agreement on Government Procurement under the 1994 WTO.

Resentment amongst the Officers of Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited

480. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the resentment amongst the officers of the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited, one of the prestigious and profit earning Government of India undertakings for not getting equivalent pay scales as are being given to other PSUs like IOC, NTPC, BHEL etc.;

(b) whether it is a fact that a representation to that effect has been submitted to the CMD of the undertaking by the PWTUC; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?